

10-11-1962

Unknown to Mr. Meredith (11 October 1962)

Author Unknown

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Recommended Citation

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Complis

no sign, at
return add.

Dear Mr. Meredith

By name calling on
the campus you are paying
the price for the negro's of progress,
when they call you names please
just smile for me that all
you have to do to show it
don't mean a thing to you,
this is a big step for the
Negro and they hate it like
HELL! you didn't think they
would like it, so name calling
is nothing, that's all they can
do to you call you names, so
good lucky, hello to your wife
and kids, now don't forget when
they are calling you names you
are paying the price of "progress"

The Visiting Editor:

By RALPH MCGILL

(3rd In a Series of 4 Columns)

Not all the perfumes of Araby will wash clean the political hands of Mississippi's Governor Ross Barnett, or of those who for so long have joined him in sowing the dragon's teeth. He and his aides were safely away making pious statements about law and order when the inevitable harvest of preachments of defiance and of nonexistent state sovereignty was so fearsomely reaped.

Let us look well at the mob. Let Governor Barnett and his staff observe it in all of its details. The newspaper of Jackson, the state capital, will surely wish to look at it closely. Some members of the mob may have answered this newspaper's most recent clarion call to defiance of the Federal court order at the Univ. of Mississippi. Surely, the most arrogant White Citizens Council speakers will wish to see what they have helped to sow and to reap.

The face of the mob was twisted with ugly hate and fury. Its elements were those made familiar at Little Rock and New Orleans. There were the dangerous adult fanatics of the more extreme and White Citizens Council groups. They had come from several states. There were the teen-aged toughs with long sideburns and switchblade knives and sections of iron pipe concealed about them.

And finally, saddest of all, there were the students, the elite of the

state, who had brought from their homes some deep and desperate feeling of prejudice and commitment to an ancient status quo. They too had read the inflamed pages of their press. They had heard the governor and his aides. They had before them the example of the governor, the state police, and rural deputies, turning back marshals representing their country's government.

All these elements were combined in the mob which killed two persons, wounded almost a hundred and did vast and untold damage to property and prestige in Mississippi.

It is necessary that we see a tall gaunt man who stood by a mute Confederate monument at Oxford. This was Edwin Walker, at one time a general of the United States Army. It was he who led the Federal troops at Little Rock, but at Oxford he hid on the mob. Those near him heard him exhort members of the mob to violence. He did not endanger himself; he urged others. It was inevitable, the safety of the nation requiring it, that he be arrested and charged with "rebellion, insurrection, and seditious conspiracy."

He is an alarming figure, albeit a pathetic one. Texas recently refuted him at the ballot box. He appears now as an aging man, willing to inflame young college students and hoodlums against the laws of the country he once served with honor. In passing, how-

The Guilty Hands

ever, let it be said of him that of all those who had for so long advocated defiance and resistance of the Federal law, he alone appeared in the midst of it — nor did he, in the wake of hideous horror, issue any pious statements about law and order.

It may be, though God alone knows why it should be so, that the historical explosion at Oxford, Miss., was a necessary catharsis. Perhaps now the many good people, who have for so long listened to lies and political bombasts, will accept the truth. There is no such thing as a sovereign state. There has not been since 1789 when the Constitution was adopted to correct the ruins created by the Confederation of Colonies, which collapsed on the issue of sovereignty.

The Federal Constitution and the United States came into being because of the failure of 13 sovereignties. This Constitution and this nation are sovereign, not the states. If a Governor Faubus or a Governor Barnett were sovereign, there would be no United States of America. The Federal authority protects us all.

Finally, those southern leaders who have repeatedly told their people who will defy the courts have been false to their people. History, humanity and civilization demand of the still defiant people that

Students Threw Acid At "Feds"

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — A San Francisco deputy United States marshal, nursing a badly battered leg, today described the "nightmare" of rioting on the University of Mississippi campus.

"It could have been a massacre," said Alexander C. Koenig in telling how 400 marshals, using only tear gas, stood off a violent mob of 3,000 on the Oxford, Miss., campus Sunday night.

"It was hard to believe we were in the United States," he said. "No one who wasn't there will ever completely know what a nightmare we went through."

Koenig, 37, was hit in the right leg by a thrown brick as he and the rest of the marshals stood guard in front of the university's administration building.

Interviewed at his home here, Koenig said that demonstrators "definitely were the first to start the rioting" over efforts to register Negro James Meredith.

"The students ranged in age from 17 to 22. Many of the boys were wearing blue Ole Miss beanies. There were a lot of nice-looking coeds with them," he said.

"Those boys called us every filthy name in the book and threw everything they could lay their hands on. One of the worst things we had to take were soft drink bottles filled with acid from the college chemistry laboratories."

THE STUDENT GETS

**'How'd You Like Your Daughter Marrin'
One of Them?'**



Mississippi Defi

The mail has brought us a curious communication from something styling itself "the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission." It is "an agency created by the state Legislature" with Gov. Ross Barnett as its chairman, and its function is to express Mississippi's point of view regarding school segregation. The public relations department of the commission has put out a pamphlet titled "Mississippi is Educating . . . Without Integrating." This is a bland announcement that Mississippi is violating the Constitution of the United States.

If the state of Minnesota were to put out a pamphlet announcing that Minnesota is convicting men accused of crime without trial or if Maine were to announce that newspapers in that state may no longer criticize the state government, Mississippians would no doubt be scandalized. For these, too, would be violations of the Constitution — clearly established as such because the Supreme Court has said that the 14th amendment forbids such action by any state.

Whether Mississippi likes it or not, the Supreme Court speaks with indubitable authority in this field. When Mississippi shakes a fist at the Supreme Court, she shakes a fist at the American Union. When Mississippi defies the Constitution, Mississippi defies the United States of America. — Washington Post

Price of Progress

The violence that accompanied the enrollment of Negro James Meredith at the University of Mississippi has been justly termed "tragic." But perhaps the deeper tragedy lies in what sponsored the campus rioting and made it possible—the fact that racial feeling is so deeply ingrained in many southern whites.

But if the Negro is ever to obtain full rights of citizenship in the South—especially in Mississippi, it appears that some violence is inevitable. The argument that the federal government should not have pressed the issue of James Meredith on the University of Mississippi "at this time" raises the question: When, then?

It is quite likely that the integration that has taken place in the South would not have been possible without pressure, direct or indirect, from the federal government. It is also likely that severe racial discrimination will continue in many parts of the South—despite federal pressure.

A Swedish sociologist, Dr. Gunnar Murdal, has suggested that the vio-

lence has a positive side. He said last week that the campus disturbances and the use of federal troops to quell them points up the gap that still remains between racial discrimination and "the American creed of liberty, justice and equality."

It is quite probable that most southern whites do not think very often about the fact that a large part of the population are denied rights of citizenship on the basis of color. Experience in other parts of the South shows that when the fact is thought about, integration can take place smoothly and peacefully.

"The riots," said Dr. Murdal, "make people think." For this reason, he said, the violence in Mississippi may accelerate the progress of racial integration, not only in the South, but in all parts of the country.

The theory is that people will see the ugly form that racial feeling takes and then reject it for what it is. It is unfortunate that only violence can accomplish this purpose in some areas. It is the price, however, of progress.

Fire At Will

By TOM ROBERTSON

A single phrase will take care of the great bulk of what is being said about the crisis at Oxford, Mississippi: "It isn't so" is a sufficient response to most of it.

If one were to enumerate the things that are being said and reiterated, with unreflecting gusto and little judgment, that aren't even fairly true, the list would be long. It isn't plausible, for example, that the contest is between the children of light (us), and those of darkness (the Mississippi segregationists), and that the right is all on our side.

The name of Abraham Lincoln is being invoked a good deal, but Lincoln didn't want to fight the Civil War, and didn't plan to abolish slavery — his first concern was the integrity of the United States, and he would certainly have preferred to solve the problem of slavery in a gradual way.

The blunt fact is that Negroes outnumber whites in many parts of Mississippi, and that a lot of them aren't ready for the responsibilities of freedom and equal rights. That fact stares Mississippians hard in the face all day every day. Their fears may not

seem pretty at our distance, but they are not irrational fears.

We should be showing better sense if we reckoned more realistically with the actual situation in states like Mississippi and Alabama, and showed more intelligent sympathy with both sides in the conflict. It is not written in the stars that 1962 is to see the final solution of the problems of the Negro in the South, and the segregationists are not all villains of melodrama.

Another unfortunate approach is the *deus vult*. To say that God wills the current crash program of integration is to borrow from the darkest pages of religious history, when the name of God has been invoked to justify excesses that in perspective are seen to be quite unrelated to God and his purposes.

The disabilities of the Negro are unjust and must be lifted. The Negro is a person and a citizen, at his best a very attractive person and a responsible citizen. He cannot with any propriety be confined to a second class limbo.

But man and his methods catch only broken gleams of the perfect light, and many a good deed becomes vicious through fanaticism or haste.

Durable Is Gradual

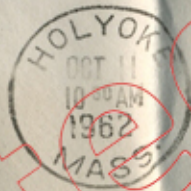
There has been no time in history when the aspect of eternity has not been used, like an ill-fitting garment, to cloak objects and occasions that we are now unable even to understand. There is a great disparity between those objects and the ones that are honestly eternal, and perennially intelligible. The genuine ones have the enduring beauty and fitness of a perfect musical phrase: they not only bear examination but invite contemplation.

But when a Negro integrationist leader says, as one recently did, "I want my rights. I want all of them. I want them now," he is asking for what no man of any race ever had or ever will. He is falling into the vice of haste and rashness, and imagining a white majority deprived of nothing, and a Negro minority excluded from everything.

He isn't going to get all his rights now, any more than you or I can, even if Congress and the Supreme Court and the United Nations all busy themselves with his problems exclusively.

The durable gains are made gradually.

Springfield, Mass



Mr. James Meredith
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